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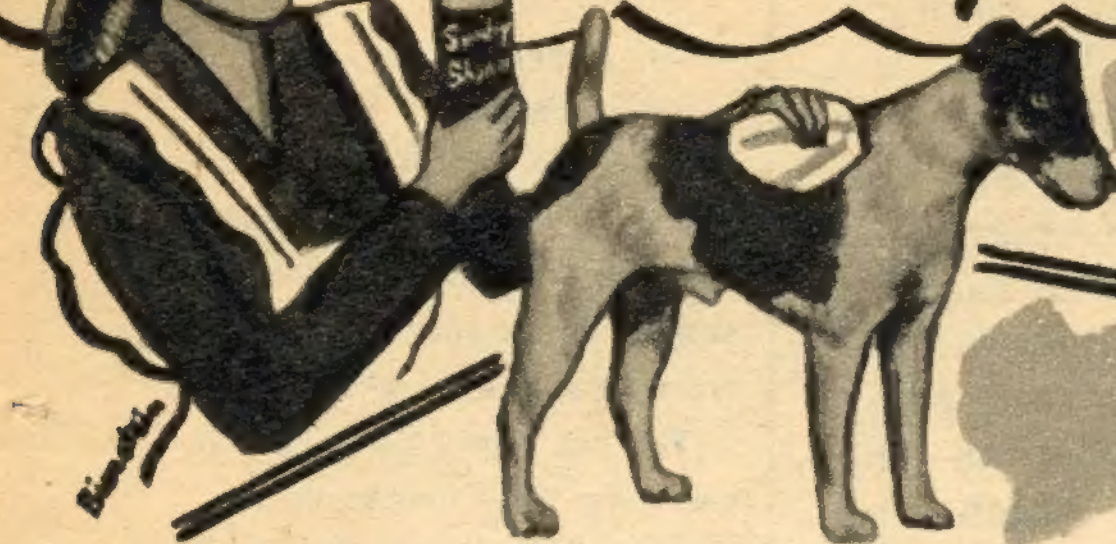
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Quiet country in upper Bergen provides pastoral subject for Ramsey artists.

Let's Explore--

NORTHERN BERGEN

By JOHN T. CUNNINGHAM

THE Erie Railroad extolled Bergen County's residential attractions in its 1865 publicity: "Lose no time in selecting your property... Live to an honored ripe old age and see your children and your children's children rise up and call you blessed."

How well that advice was heeded is a familiar story in most of the county. Today a drive northward from Hackensack through the Pascack Brook and Saddle River valleys is a good way to study how the transition from a prominent agricultural region to a vast sleeping room for New York actually took place. Here the change is still in process, and farm land is interspersed with real estate development. Often the two are combined and the long irrigation pipes cut through the heart of new developments hemming in vast truck gardens.

As Bergen's least developed region, this offers much

pleasant unbroken scenery and lightly-traveled roads. A word about Bergen County roads—they can be confusing because often they are not well marked. For that reason it is well to hold as much as possible to a through route and in line with that advice seek Kinderkamack road upon leaving Hackensack by way of Main street.

A DEVIATION should be made to the right off Kinderkamack just after passing Route 4. This is New Bridge road, which leads past the famous von Steuben House, now the headquarters of the Bergen County Historical Society. The house, built in 1751, is the best known of North Bergen's numerous old Dutch houses. To get back to Kinderkamack road, cross the bridge to River road then keep left at the next intersection back across the

Hackensack River to the triangle intersection.

Northward is Emerson, once called Kinderkamack, which means in Indian "where the cock crowed." According to the story, the Indians named the region when a cock crowed to warn them of the approach of pursuing colonists from whom they had stolen cattle.

Beyond Hillsdale look for the road which leads left across Woodcliff Lake, the three-mile reservoir of the Hackensack Water Co. The lake, created in 1903 by damming the valley of Pascack Brook, is split by a road across its middle. Continue to Pascack road and drive north to Park Ridge and Montvale.

Pascack road goes past the site of the former wampum factory and Astor's Trading Post in Park Ridge at Mill Brook, where an Indian trading post was established in 1765 by Cornelius Eckerson.



Small homes growing in on broad truck gardens: A capsule story of Bergen's transition from a top farm county to a haven for developers of real estate.



Clinton Brook iron furnace built in 1833 is typical of old iron works in reservoir area.



Not a memorial tower but Peguannock gate of Newark water supply on Bloomfield avenue.

It's Long Cry From City's First Reservoir, Built 150 Years Ago to Receive Flow From Downtown Area Springs, to a Modern Water Supply

Other furnaces were built at Newfoundland, at Russia, at Hamburg.

The names of Russia, Stockholm and Hamburg were given to the mine communities because the best iron, favored by American blacksmiths, was imported from Germany, Sweden and Russia. A forge erected in 1796 at Canistear is now deep in the center of the reservoir of that name, while Laurel Mine, Roomy Mine, and Freedom Furnace built in 1838, are under the waters of Wanaque Reservoir. Many changes of ownership and management took place in the mines and forges for the industry was a speculative one full of risks.

During 100 years or more

the mines, forges and furnaces brought employment, tools, and a market for country produce to the farm population. Signs of charcoal pits all through the hills are evidence of the charcoal burning engaged in by local men, squatters and company employees. The hills were thickly forested then as they are today, though the dense growth of chestnut is gone, victim of a blight introduced from Europe in our generation.

THE valleys, now fast growing up in old field birch and red cedar, were once rich with fields of wheat, rye, corn, oats, barley and buckwheat. Farmers carried the grain to the nearest grist

mill, and sold the flour they did not use to the company stores at the mines. The animals they raised and butchered, the pork they cured, the wood they raised, all found a local use and market among the hundreds of iron workers. Wood from the hills was cut into ties and sold to the railroads which came through in the mid-1800s to carry out the ore.

Because the highlands were thinly populated it was necessary to import labor for the mines. "Baron" Hasenclever, German iron master, brought with him skilled contract laborers from his native land, and dressed them in uniforms of black faced with red, the better to identify them when they ran away, as they often did. Hessian soldiers, taken prisoner during the Revolution, were also brought to work the mines, and escaped to become Americans, rather than return to Europe. Wood choppers, miners and furnace men were constantly in demand as long as the mines flourished, which was until shortly after the close of the Civil War.

WHEN the mines closed down, because of the competition of Pennsylvania ores, more economically produced and transported, the hills of Passaic, Sussex and Morris County reverted to the quiet rural ways of the earliest times. Though the farm families were large, the total population of the rural townships was small.

Money was scarce and the rural economy was self-sufficing as far as possible. Farmers built their own homes, hewing their own beams from oak trees. Barn and house raisings, quilting parties, husking frolics were means of getting work done, and afforded an excuse for sociability, the neighbors driving for miles over the hills. It was a life only broken by the visits of the Summer boarders or an occasional county fair and it lasted well into the 20th Century.



Wanaque Reservoir under construction in 1927, with Raymond Dam, named for late Mayor, in foreground. Wanaque-Midvale is at the right.

mers, pots, kettles, "pye pans," and a host of other articles. Known as the "Newark Stove Foundry," the firm shipped to New York iron ware of such excellence that it brought fame to Newark made goods even then. In exchange for hammers, anvils and other tools of wrought iron, the firm received bar iron from the mines in Sussex and Morris County which came into Newark on mule back over the Crane road, the old Bloomfield road, or the River road from Acquackanonk, now Passaic.

THE Ogdens had been quick to recognize the value of the swift-flowing streams of the northern counties. As early as 1742 they had surveys made and bought up land on both sides of the little rivers, the Ringwood and the Rockaway in particular. From these two streams, and the lakes and brooks that feed them, most of Newark's water comes today. By their land purchases the Ogdens secured rights to water power and mineral resources from Cornelius Board, a Welsh miner who learned about the iron from the Indians and bought from the East Jersey proprietors land which is now part of the Wanaque watershed. Board's name survives in the 880 foot Board Mountain, favorite view point of hikers; and in the lost village of Boardville now deeply submerged in the reservoir.

Mines, forges and slitting mills built by the Ogdens at Ringwood, at Old Boonton (now deep in the Jersey City Reservoir), at Sparta, and at Split Rock were sold in the late 1700s, most of them to the great ironmasters John Jacob Faesch, and the "Baron" Hasenclever. The Fords of Morristown were also enterprising mine owners and forge builders, opening furnaces on the Whippany River at Hibernia in 1763 and on the Pequannock River near Stockholm in the early 1800s.

NEWARK SUNDAY NEWS

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Most famous Dutch homestead is von Steuben house, now home of Bergen County Historical Society.

Least Developed Section of Fast-Growing County Draws Motorists

GOOD roads swing westward across North Bergen's highly rural area between Montvale and Ramsey. Farmlands and gentle-rolling hills combine to offer peasant driving through Upper Saddle River, a region of old stone Dutch houses and a favorite spot for artists. In Upper Saddle River the Old Stone Dutch Reformed Church, built in 1789, is worth a visit.

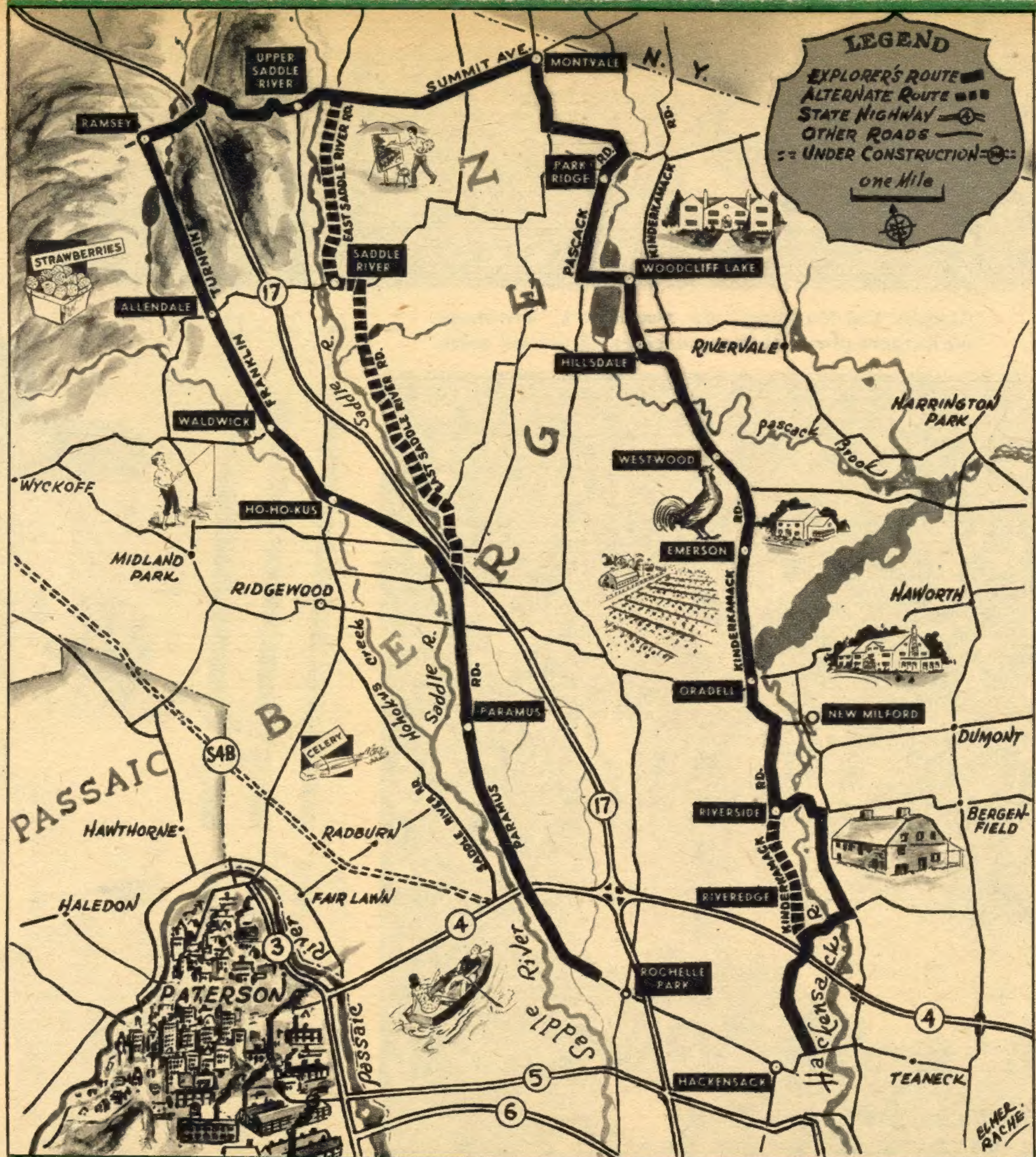
Two equally-pleasant alternatives offer themselves to the motorist returning toward Hackensack. He can take East Saddle River road paralleling Saddle River all the way south to Ridgewood or he can return from Ramsey by way of Franklin turnpike, lined with neat stone fences.

If the latter is chosen the traveler should learn that at the time of the Civil War Ramsey and Allendale were considered the nation's strawberry center. As many as 1,500,000 baskets of berries were picked weekly at the height of the boom. Eventually the high prices which home builders were willing to pay for the land made real estate more profitable than strawberries.

That's the story all the way southward to Hackensack. Since 1900 agriculture has been slowly giving way although Paramus still is known as an outstanding truck garden region. However, as early as 1905 land values reached as high as \$5,000 an acre in Bergen. The building of George Washington Bridge accelerated the process of growth and Bergen's population has soared from less than 50,000 in 1890 to more than 500,000 today.



Thousands of homes have risen since war in state's fastest-growing county.



Explorer's map guides motorists through Northern Bergen, rich in scenery.

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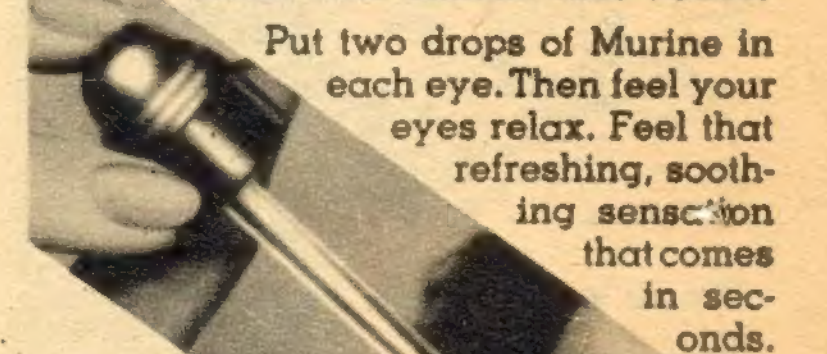
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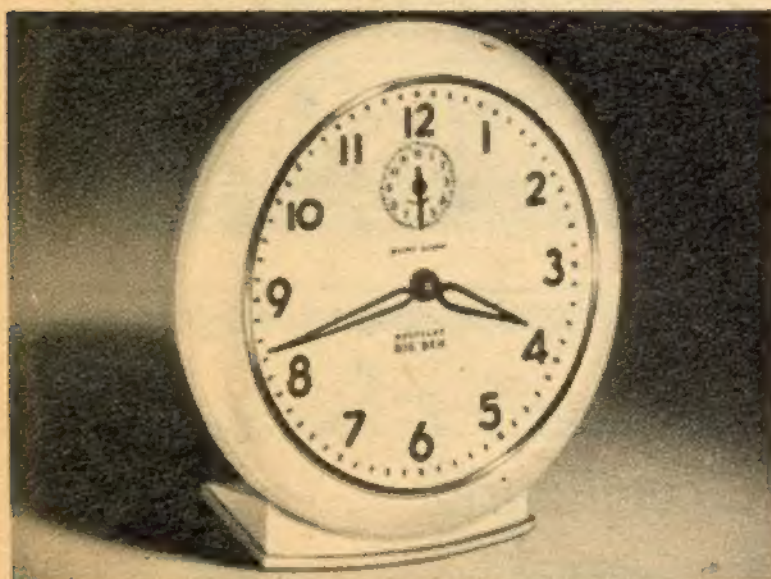


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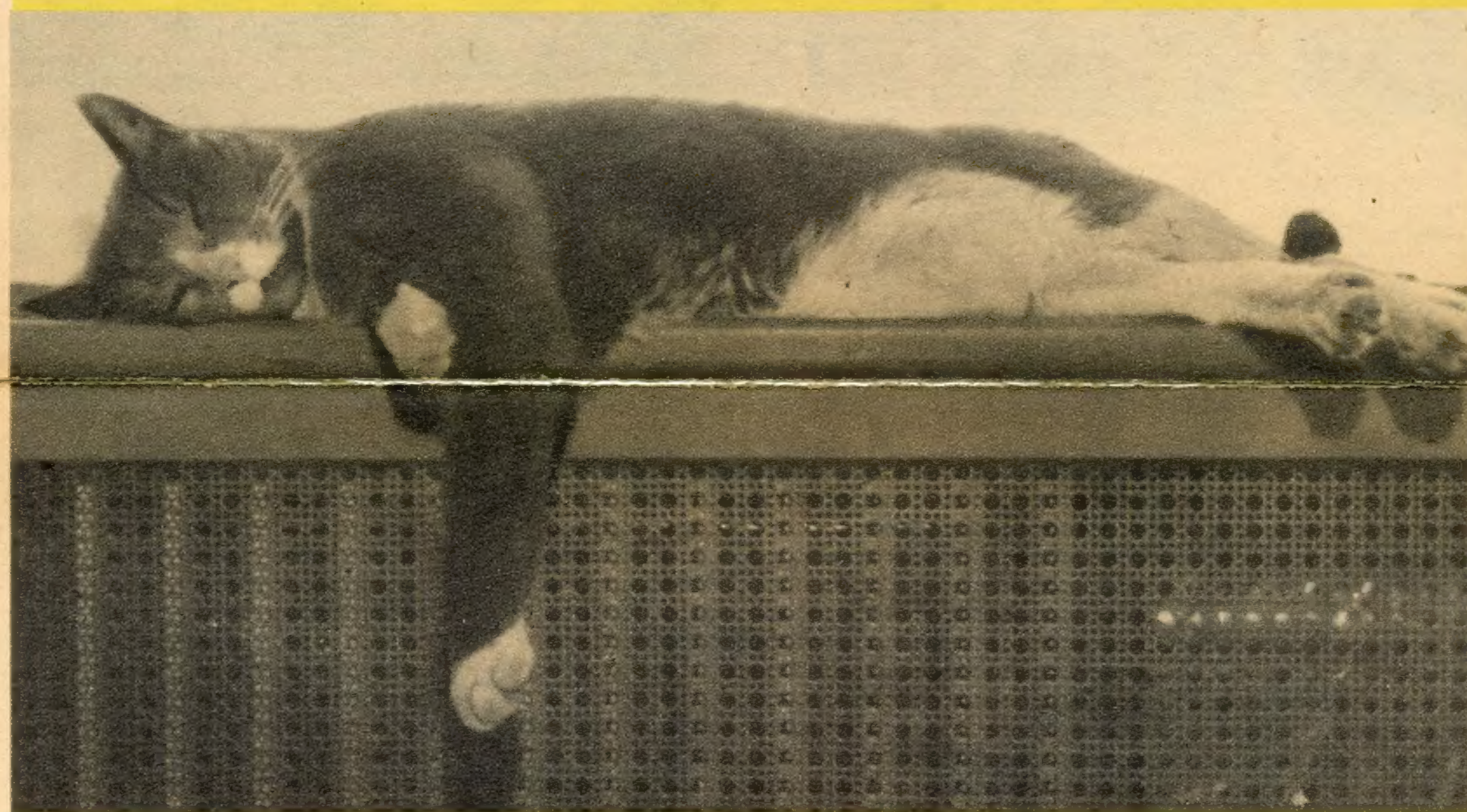
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A double study—"Who's That, Mommy?" by Raymond J. Hopping of 329-D Mt. Pleasant avenue, Dover, winner of \$5 first prize in this month's contest.



"Caught Cat-Napping" by Marjean L. Armitage, 262 Rutgers place, Nutley, receives \$3 second prize.



"Night Around Central Park" by Jack Z. Kevoe of 1573 Maple avenue, Hillside, awarded third prize.



Honorable mention—"Point of View" by William H. Oberndorf of 303 Stegman Parkway, Jersey City.

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Photos

CONTEST RULES

PRIZE WINNING PICTURES
 in the Newark Sunday News amateur photo contest are reproduced on the last Sunday of each month, with awards of \$5, \$3 and \$2.

Give the title and the competing photographer's name and address on the back of each photo. **NO PICTURE WILL BE RETURNED UNLESS STAMPS ARE INCLUDED.** Address: Amateur Photo Contest Editor, Newark Sunday News, 215 Market street, Newark 1.